



CITY OF MONTGOMERY

OFFICE OF MAYOR TODD STRANGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Public Relations Administrator

MASTER PLAN TO BE CREATED FOR SEGMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS TRAIL

MONTGOMERY, AL – The City of Montgomery will hold the *Greening the Selma to Montgomery Trail: Reconnecting and Remembering Charrette* on January 31-February 2 to develop a master plan for the one-mile segment of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail that includes Oak St./West Fairview Ave. intersection to Holt St. to Day St./Mobile St. intersection. The design process will seek to improve the streetscape for walking/biking, to include natural stormwater management solutions, to improve housing and commercial buildings, to develop commemorative public art and to create better connections between neighborhoods in an area crisscrossed by major highway overpasses.

The City of Montgomery received one of the five technical assistance grants awarded this year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its second round of the Greening America's Capitals program. Through this grant EPA is providing technical assistance to plan and facilitate the charrette and then create the master plan from input received during the charrette. EPA selected 2DStudio LLC to serve as the lead design firm in providing technical assistance for Montgomery's Greening America's Capitals project. 2DStudio will lead a project team of urban planners, architects, landscape architects and historic preservationists to develop a conceptual master plan for the area.

"The outcomes from this charrette are important, because they will provide us with a strategic plan for needed improvements to this historic area as we approach the 50th anniversary of Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March," stated Mayor Todd Strange.

"I encourage all persons with insights for this area's redevelopment, whether as a resident or business person located there or as someone who has a connection to the area's history, to look at the schedule and select the events that best serve them for involvement in this planning process."

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The charrette will begin on Tuesday, January 31 with a series of technical forums from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., where key design features will be discussed by panelists working in that area of expertise. These forums will be held at the charrette's design studio, set up in the Planning Department offices at 25 Washington Avenue (third and fourth floors). That evening a public meeting will be held at Loveless Community Center (921 West Jeff Davis Avenue) to present an overview of the day's discussion and progress of the planning effort, and participants will be encouraged to provide their input on the evolving master plan concepts.

On Wednesday, February 1, the design team will work again in the charrette's design studio. The public is welcome to stop by and provide input during this phase, which will be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Thursday, February 2, the charrette's final activities will include the Action Plan and Implementation Strategies Forum at 9:00 a.m., followed by an Open House at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. presenting the outcomes of the charrette. Both events will be held at the City Council Chambers on the first floor of 1 Dexter Plaza.

The public is welcome to attend all of these events and is encouraged to contribute their insights and values to the charrette process. For more information, please contact the Montgomery Planning Department at 334-625-2714 or 334-625-2699.

Attachments:

Schedule of Charrette events

Charrette Agenda and Overview

Map with planning area highlighted

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